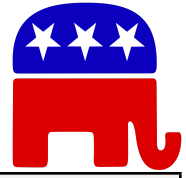


Discussion Guide on Major Political Party Positions



These handouts concisely overview key political party positions on important issues. Each includes topic objectives, an introduction, and discussion questions to stimulate critical thinking and classroom dialogue.

Handout 1: Climate Change

Objective:

Examine the Democratic and Republican parties' ideologies and policies on climate change, assessing their impacts and the influence of external factors.

Introduction:

Climate change is a critical global issue with differing responses from political parties. Understanding these perspectives is key to engaging in informed discussions about potential solutions and policies.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do the Democratic and Republican parties' approaches to climate change reflect their broader ideologies?
2. What specific policies do each party support to address climate issues, and what are the anticipated impacts of these policies?
3. How have external factors, such as public opinion and environmental events, influenced each party's stance on climate change?



Handout 2: Healthcare

Objective:

Compare Democratic and Republican healthcare policies, focusing on key issues like pre-existing conditions and Medicaid expansion, and assess their societal impacts

Introduction:

Healthcare reform remains a divisive topic in American politics. The Democratic and Republican parties have proposed different solutions to improve healthcare accessibility, affordability, and quality.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the fundamental differences between the Democratic and Republican visions for America's healthcare system?
2. How do each party's healthcare policies address pre-existing conditions, Medicaid expansion, and healthcare costs?
3. What are the potential effects of each party's healthcare proposals on different segments of the population?

Handout 3: Economy

Objective:

Critically assess the economic policies of each party, encouraging thoughtful discussion on their implications for various economic sectors and the general populace.

Introduction:

Economic policies are a cornerstone of party platforms, with Democrats and Republicans offering distinct visions for taxation, government spending, and regulation to foster growth and stability.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do the economic philosophies of the Democratic and Republican parties differ regarding tax policy, government intervention, and social welfare programs?
2. Evaluate each party's economic policies' potential short-term and long-term impacts on job creation, income inequality, and the national debt.
3. Consider external factors, like global markets and unforeseen crises, in shaping or challenging each party's economic strategies.

Further Reading and Resources

To deepen your understanding of the political party positions on key issues, explore the following resources:

Official Party Platforms:

- Democratic Party: [democrats.org \(where we stand\)](https://democrats.org/where-we-stand)
- Republican Party: gop.com

Bipartisan Resources:

- **VoteSmart's "Political Courage Test":** [VoteSmart.org](https://votesmart.org) - Offers a side-by-side comparison of candidates and elected officials' positions on key issues, which can reflect their Party's stance.
- **OnTheIssues.org:** [OnTheIssues.org](https://ontheissues.org) - Provides a comprehensive look at politicians' stances on various issues, often showing comparisons between different party members.
- **Ballotpedia's "Comparison of Political Party Platforms":** [Ballotpedia.org](https://ballotpedia.org) - Features detailed comparisons of the party platforms on various topics, offering insights into each Party's priorities and policies.

Government Information:

- Healthcare.gov: healthcare.gov - Information on health insurance and the ACA.
- CDC Health Policy: cdc.gov - Resources on public health policies.

Think Tanks and Research Institutions:

- Kaiser Family Foundation: kff.org - In-depth research on health policy.
- Brookings Institution: brookings.edu - Analysis of various policy topics, including healthcare.

News and Analysis:

- Politico Health Care: <https://www.politico.com/health-care> - Latest news on health policy.
- The Hill - Health Care: thehill.com/policy/healthcare - Coverage of health policy and politics.

Academic Journals:

- Health Affairs: healthaffairs.org - A journal on health policy thought and research.
- New England Journal of Medicine: nejm.org - Offers healthcare policy and reform articles.

Fact-Checking and Analysis:

- FactCheck.org: factcheck.org - A nonpartisan fact-checking website that analyzes political claims.
- PolitiFact: politifact.com - Fact-checks political statements and policies.

Please encourage students to approach these resources critically, evaluating the credibility and bias of the information they find. This list provides a foundation for independent research, enabling students to explore the topics in depth and form informed opinions.

